

10 Park Villas, West, R.P.

July 4. 1844.

My dear Sir,

I have recently read a little from Professor Gerinimo on the subject of his work (yet in embryo only) on Shakespeare. From his shewing it will be a critical production, but in the most popular sense of the term. His plan is to proceed much after the manner of Goethe, in his criticism on Hamlet, in Wilhelm Meister, with which you, of course, are acquainted, thro' Mr. Carlyle's translation of that work - his main object being, in his own language, "to investigate the inward organisation of Shaks[er's] mind, by means of an analysis of his pieces - & to find the ground plot amidst the superstructure of each play, has been based. also to allocate the pieces according to their conjectural, or positive, order; & so attempt to evolve the soul & character of the Poet out of the Idea-links indicated in his works - & by that means hopef[ully] attain something like a sketch of his inward life, not unworthy to be placed along side the 'portraits of his outward one'."

Such a book from the pen of such a man
as Gervinus will be indeed acceptable -
He seems to desire that I should stand
Foster father to the work in this country - It will
be no great honor to be thus connected with
so renowned a personage as Gervinus, for me to
decline at once the proffered opportunity: but
first of all, a Publisher must be secured in
this country - & I know of no one who is
likely to take them up so heartily as
would Charles Knight - What think you?

There is a passage in Gervinus' letter
concerning yourself, which is my main motive
for writing this - It is as follows:

" To Mr Collins. I beg my remembrances
as from one unknown to him - altho' to me
he himself is well known. I have in my
hands, daily, his edition, & use it for my
staff & cleaning-prop. It has spared me an
enormous quantity of stupid readings of absurd com-
mentators - also of your "Shaksper Society"
I have good information. I lament that its

Publications are not easily attainable by me, here.
I look on them as stored ready for my arrival
in London, where I shall go thro' them &
other documents - as, for instance, the springs of
Twink & Freida, the only piece in which I am
as yet at sea, touching the Poets' particular
view."

I inclose you the last of my literary
communications: It will serve to answer your
queries.

Yours very truly

Wm. H. Maylor.

JPC Colln Jr.

J. P. Collier Esq:
Victoria Road
London